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**Sustainability 101**

**Over the course of this week, we will gain a better understanding of the factors that impact upon the health of our environment.**

**We will analyse strategies designed to support the health and wellbeing of our global community.**

**We might even identify actions that we can take in order to improve our sustainability status ☺**

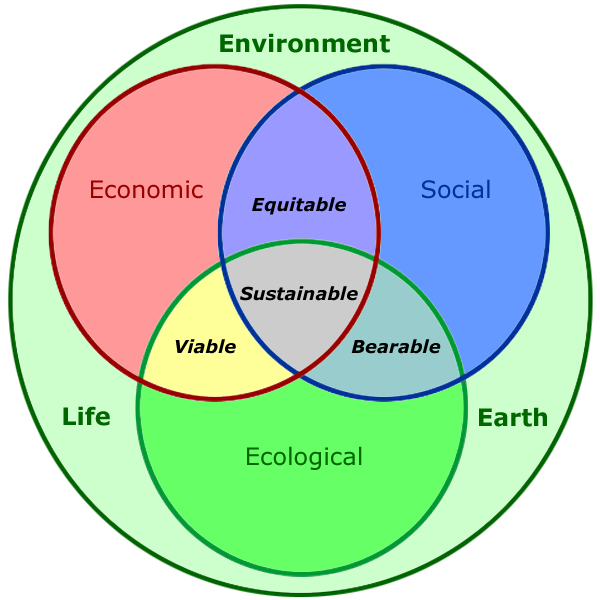
What is sustainability?

Note down your understanding of the term ‘sustainability’:



Compare your thoughts with the people at your table…

Create a mind-map of sustainability – acknowledge all the different perspectives in your group.



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Examining our beliefs…

Often the beliefs we hold have become so familiar to us that we don’t ever take the time to consider them closely. This exercise is an opportunity to take a closer look at some of the beliefs we hold with relation to sustainability.

1. List 3 beliefs you have with regard to sustainability and/or the environment e.g. “we must reduce our emphasis on economic growth in order to preserve the environment”, or, “humans are contributing to global warming”.

2. For each belief, ask the following questions in the table below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Beliefs: |  |  |  |
| Where did that belief come from? Childhood? Something you read? Friends? |  |  |  |
| When I hear evidence that is contrary to that belief, what is my initial reaction? |  |  |  |
| What causes me to accept some evidence related to this belief, but not others? |  |  |  |
| How does this belief influence my behaviour? |  |  |  |

<http://sustainability.ceres.org.au/node/1289>

It’s debatable…

You are going to be divided into one of two sides…

Each side will need to take a position either in support or against one of the following statements.

We will explore the issues though a whole class debate ☺

When all the trees have been cut down,  
when all the animals have been hunted,  
when all the waters are polluted,  
when all the air is unsafe to breathe,  
only then will you discover you cannot eat money.  
 **Cree Prophecy**

Treat the earth well.  
It was not given to you by your parents,  
it was loaned to you by your children.  
We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors,  
we borrow it from our Children.  
  
**Ancient Native American Proverb**

“In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions upon the next seven generations.”

**From the Great Law of the Iroquois Confederacy.**



[www.sfsf.com.au](http://www.sfsf.com.au)

Tomorrow we are visiting CERES Community Environment Park in Brunswick.

We will go on a tour of the centre and grounds, do a sustainability workshop and experience organic gardening. It will be a fabulous way to immerse ourselves in a sustainable approach to life!

**How many of you have been to CERES before?**

**What do you know about CERES?**

Before we go – complete the table below – this table will provide you with rich questions to ask while you are there and help you reflect on your experience.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| What do I know? | What do I want to know? | How will I find the answer? | What have I learnt [trail day]? |
|  |  |  |  |

Thinking through sustainable initiatives…

What sustainability initiatives are discussed at CERES? Use the tables below to analyse them:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Initiative: | |
| What is the intention behind this initiative? |  |
| Who does it affect / support? |  |
| Is it achievable? |  |
| Does it uphold a commitment to protecting the ‘Seventh Generation’? |  |

|  |  |
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Questions to think about while you are there:

**What is your connection to the land?**

**How do we maintain a comfortable lifestyle and still respect the earth & live sustainably?**

**In what ways is organic farming beneficial to the environment & to humans?**

**What role do you as a consumer play in the shaping of land use?**